



CITY OF  
TUCSON



Ready to Protect,  
Proud to Serve

---

## NEWS RELEASE

---

Chad Kasmar  
Chief of Police

**Contact:** Francisco Magos  
Officer / Public Information Office  
520-791-4852  
On-call PIO: [tpdpio@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:tpdpio@tucsonaz.gov)

**Date:** 1/15/2022  
**TDD:** 791-2639

### FATAL MOTORCYCLE COLLISION 5200 BLOCK OF SOUTH NOGALES HIGHWAY

The Tucson Police Department is investigating a fatal motorcycle collision that occurred yesterday afternoon on Tucson's South Side.

On January 14, 2022, at 6:33 p.m., patrol officers from the Southside Division were dispatched to the report of a serious-injury collision involving a motorcycle on S. Nogales Hwy. north of E. Olive St. Upon arrival, officers discovered that a motorcycle had collided with a semi-truck and trailer. The motorcyclist was transported by Tucson Fire to Banner University Medical Center in life-threatening condition. No other injuries were reported at the scene and the motorcyclist was pronounced deceased at the hospital upon his arrival. The motorcyclist was identified as 19-year-old **Emilio Pete Espinosa**. Next of kin was notified. Detectives from the Traffic Investigations Unit were briefed and responded to the scene to continue the investigation.

Interviews conducted by officers and detectives determined that the driver of a 2011 International semi-truck was attempting to back his attached trailer into a private yard. The yard is located on the east side of the 5200 block of S. Nogales Hwy., and a spotter was used to assist in backing the truck. While the semi was backing up, it was positioned horizontally across both lanes of northbound travel on S. Nogales Hwy. During this time, Espinosa was riding a 2008 Harley-Davidson northbound, eventually colliding into the side of the semi-trailer. According to witness statements, the motorcycle was traveling well above the posted speed limit of 40 MPH. Mr. Espinosa was not wearing a helmet at the time of the collision and had a suspended driver's license – and did not have the proper motorcycle endorsement.

An officer from the DUI Unit responded to the scene and determined that the driver of the semi-truck was not impaired. The driver was identified as a male in his 50s. Based on interviews, detectives believe Mr. Espinosa had consumed alcohol prior to the collision. Interviews in conjunction with roadway evidence indicate that failure to control/reduce speed is the major contributing factor in the collision. The investigation is ongoing and any impairment regarding Mr. Espinosa will be determined through medical records.

Page 1 of 2

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

---

**tucsonaz.gov**



CITY OF  
TUCSON



Ready to Protect,  
Proud to Serve

---

## NEWS RELEASE

---

Chad Kasmar  
Chief of Police

### Traffic Fatalities Year to Date:

For 2021 – 2	For 2022 – 9
Pedestrian – 1	Pedestrian – 3
Bicycle – 0	Bicycle – 0
Motorcycle – 1	Motorcycle – 2
Vehicle - 0	Vehicle – 4

####